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Santa Monica mayor letter support AB 493

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Mayor **Ted Winterer**
Mayor Pro Tempore **Gleam Davis**

Councilmembers
Sue Himmelrich
Kevin McKeown
Pam O'Connor
Terry O'Day
Tony Vazquez

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Richard Bloom
California State Assembly, 50th District
State Capitol, Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer) Crime: victims and witnesses: immigration violations.**
City of Santa Monica – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bloom,

On behalf of the City of Santa Monica, I am pleased to write you in **SUPPORT** of **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)**, and respectfully request your “**AYE**” vote when this bill is heard on the Assembly Floor. This bill would protect from deportation efforts any suspected undocumented immigrant who is a witness to or victim of a crime.

Recent and expected actions at the federal level are likely to deter individuals from engaging with police officers to provide evidence that is potentially helpful to an investigation. **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)** will help maintain positive and necessary relationships between law enforcement officers and community members. Specifically, this bill will prohibit a peace officer in California from detaining, reporting or turning over an individual to federal immigration authorities for any actual or suspected immigration violation, when that individual is a victim of or witness to a crime or can otherwise give evidence in a criminal investigation.

Ensuring open communication between California residents and peace officers is in the best interest of the state. **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)** will bolster public health and safety by reducing fear among community members and encouraging all Californians to cooperate with law enforcement to assist in criminal investigations, regardless of immigration status.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Monica **SUPPORTS AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)**. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ted Winterer
Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer Sr., 59th Assembly District
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
Joshua W. Shaw, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.